



**RECEIVED**

CITY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

**MAYOR'S OFFICE**

7 Hoffman Avenue  
Albany, NY 12209

Telephone: (518) 434-5699 Fax: (518) 434-5707

[www.albanyny.org](http://www.albanyny.org)

Gerald D. Jennings  
Mayor

John D'Antonio  
Commissioner

**MEMORANDUM**

January 10, 2011

TO: GERALD D. JENNINGS  
Mayor

FROM: JOHN D'ANTONIO  
Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D'Antonio".

RE: The Department of Recreation's Accomplishments for the Year 2010

It gives me great pleasure to submit to you The Department of Recreation's and Youth and Workforce Services' accomplishments for the past year. We continue to improve all of our recreation facilities by purchasing new state-of-the-art playground equipment and play structures, resurfacing basketball and tennis courts, upgrading our recreation facilities as well as continuing to initiate new exercise and recreational programs for our youth and senior citizens.

**PLAYGROUNDS**

We continue each and every year to work extremely hard in improving all of our playgrounds, which we have done over the last sixteen years. Our Department, to date, has replaced over 750 individual pieces of old, unsafe, worn-out playground equipment with new and safe state-of-the-art-playground equipment. We have, once again, received recognition this year from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the New York Public Interest Research Group recognizing our efforts in providing the safest and cleanest playgrounds possible for our children.

### **KARATE PROGRAM**

The City of Albany's Karate Program is one of the best karate programs in the Country. This past July we once again hosted the 2010 AAU National Karate Championships here in Albany, N. Y. at the Times Union Center. This prestigious event is the pinnacle of karate competitors and will give our youth the opportunity to meet and compete against other competitors from all over the world. The City of Albany was once again very proud to be the host site for these exceptional athletes as their families, friends and fans joined them. The championship brought in approximately 4,500 athletes representing all fifty states. The organizations that we worked with to bring the 2010 National Championships to Albany, N.Y. are: The Albany County Conventions and Visitors Bureau, Amateur Athletic Union, and the Crowne Plaza, which was the host hotel. It is estimated that the economic benefit the championships brought to the City of Albany is \$3 million dollars. The Amateur Athletic Union Committee was very pleased that the City of Albany once again hosted the championships. The Karate Program has added four new sites this year, which now brings a total of 625 children participating in this program.

### **SPORTS COMPLEX FOR HOFFMAN PARK**

The City of Albany's Department of Recreation is pleased to announce that construction is now completed for the public – private partnership that provides the College of Saint Rose and the City of Albany with a first-class state-of-the-art sports complex for Hoffman Park. The sports complex has a new natural grass baseball field, a synthetic turf multipurpose field for soccer teams, and a natural turf practice soccer field. The sports complex meets all NCAA specifications and has become the home of the outstanding Golden Knights baseball, softball and soccer teams. The total cost for this project was estimated at about \$5.5 million dollars. The facility also includes installation of new lighting, a new concession building, and parking for more than 125 vehicles. The improvements were financed through the College's budget and fundraising efforts.

### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

The City of Albany's Department of Recreation has, for the last three years, met several times with Albany School District officials on the possibility of opening several new Teen Centers in the schools. We will be announcing this year thanks to Superintendent Colluchio and the Albany School Board several new sites which will be opening this year. The Teen Centers will provide our youth, here, in the City of Albany, with programs that foster learning through educational and recreational activities. The Centers will provide a place for our youth to go after school, keeping them off the streets and into a more positive and secure environment.

### **BOXING PROGRAM**

The City of Albany's Boxing Program is the finest amateur boxing program in the Country. In 2010 our program has grown from 105 participants to 135 participants ranging from ages 10 to 18 years of age. These kids have not only developed physically, but through this program, their self-esteem has grown and also, more importantly, they have learned about self-discipline and respect. Our Boxing Program for the fourth straight year is ranked Number One in New York State.

### **SWINBURNE SKATING RINK**

We started a Learn-to-Skate and Learn-to-Play Hockey Program six years ago at Swinburne Skating Rink. The program has grown from 14 kids to 278 kids. This program has grown into one of the fastest developing programs we have.

### **ALBANY YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM**

We have a partnership with the Albany Youth Soccer Program. The League is divided into two sessions, Spring and Fall. The 2010 Spring session had 525 kids between 6 to 14 years of age. The Fall session has 625 kids between 6 to 14 years age. This year was the highest number of participants that we ever had.

### **GANG PREVENTION PROGRAM**

In 2010, the Gang Prevention Program continued to collaborate and assist City agencies and youth providers with counseling, group interventions and awareness trainings. The Gang Prevention Program was also the recipient of the 2010 Lasallian Service Award given by the LaSalle Home for Boys.

### **SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS**

We continue to initiate new exercise and recreational programs for our senior citizens. This year we had 107 seniors participate in our programs.

# Department of Youth & Workforce Services Accomplishments 2010

## Adult Programs

### Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker

1. Customer front door foot traffic over 35,000.
2. New customers registered at Career Central between 1/1/2010 and 12/31/2010, totals 8,284.
3. 991 customers received some type of training.
  - Metrix e-learning licenses issued: 668
  - # of customers in occupational skills classroom training: 323
- 4 Achieved 98% of state negotiated training goal.
5. 99.2% of customer respondents were satisfied with services.
6. 216 completed training with a credential.
7. 107 are currently in training

## Youth Programs

### YouthBuild

#### **30 students (plus 15 current)**

- 65% placed in a job or secondary education
- 35% \* GED Attainment (the rest – 60% raised both Math and Reading \*2 grade levels)
- 83% \*\* Program Graduation Rate (received Industry recognized Certifications and completed entire ProgramYear)
- 23 Housing units rehabbed in Partnership with local Churches and non-profits
- Grant from Wal\*Mart – work pants and boots for students

### Service Navigation

- 404 Intakes (potential participants)
- 137 participants received Core Services (staff assisted)
- 52 participants received intensive services

## **Albany Online Digital Literacy Program**

12 classes – educating 50 students from the community in basic computer and internet skills

## **Truancy Abatement Program**

- Guilderland and Cohoes Public school districts have done a ride along with the Truancy Program and presented Albany's initiative to their respective faculties.
- Truancy Abatement Program has partnered with LaSalle School to improve home school/ community intervention.
- The Truancy Abatement Program partnered with the Albany Police Department's TRaC Program which interacts with Youth in an effort to keep them from falling into the juvenile justice system during the summer months. TRaC, which stands for "To Reach and Connect", has a mission to reduce youth violence in the City of Albany by identifying, reaching out to and connecting with at risk youth. The Truancy Program along with the TRaC officers completed over 100 home visits in a preventative manner to reduce future truancy issues. TRaC officers and Truancy staff provided team building activities. Some of the summer highlights included trips to the State University of Albany, bowling, laser tag and a day in New York City. This program continued until 10/1/10.
- Truancy Abatement Program was asked to present at the International Association for Truancy Prevention's 100 anniversary of it's founding in Chicago, Illinois this pass October. Many countries were represented and it was a great honor to be asked to present for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in five years.
- The Truancy Abatement Program has partnered with the Albany City School District and Superintendent Dr. Colucciello to coordinate his priority of school attendance and achievement. The Truancy Program has conducted over 300 daytime home visits and over 130 night time home visits in an effort to send the message "Every day in school counts".